



WEST VIRGINIA BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FUND

FY 2019 & FY 2020

**West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer
Diagnostic and Treatment Fund
Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020**

PURPOSE

In 1996, the West Virginia Legislature established the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund (Fund) for the purpose of assisting medically indigent patients with certain diagnostic and treatment costs for breast and cervical cancer. See West Virginia Code §16-33-7(c). The Fund provides resources to offset the cost of diagnostic care not otherwise available to the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP) by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Fund is comprised of state and federal funds as well as privately raised donations. Private donations are maintained in an account managed on behalf of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH) by the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. All patients benefitting from the Fund must be financially qualified for assistance and are preapproved for treatment by a BCCSP Nurse Supervisor.

PATIENT ACCESS

The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund provides services to women through physicians, hospitals, and laboratories. Applications are available from OMCFH. Before performing the procedure, the provider must complete the application and submit it to BCCSP. Applications are reviewed and approved based upon eligibility and availability of funds.

Should a patient be diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, that patient would then be eligible for medical coverage under Title XIX as a special option through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, funded through the DHHR's Bureau for Medical Services.

DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FUND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for covered procedures, the patient must:

- Be a resident of West Virginia.
- Have an income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Have no health insurance coverage, including coverage by Medicaid or Medicare.
- Have a condition strongly suspicious for cancer which requires diagnostic services to confirm the preliminary diagnosis or have a positive pathology report indicating diagnostic or treatment services are needed.
- Have been screened or evaluated for breast cancer, cervical cancer, or both by a BCCSP contracted provider or a West Virginia licensed physician, hospital, or laboratory.

PROCEDURES COVERED BY THE FUND

Type of Service	Breast or Cervical
General anesthesia	Both
High-risk mammograms for women 40-49 years of age	Breast
Loop Electrode Excision Procedure (LEEP)	Cervical
Biopsy of excision of lesion	Cervical
Endocervical curettage	Cervical
Cryocautery of cervix	Cervical
Laser surgery of cervix	Cervical
Conization of cervix with or without repair	Cervical
Conization with LEEP	Cervical
Dilation & curettage – diagnostic and/or therapeutic	Cervical
Paracervical nerve block	Cervical
Pathology	Cervical

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FUND

State fiscal support for the Fund during FY 2019 and FY 2020 was \$400,000 annually. The Fund's legislation allows for supplementing state funding with individual, organization, and foundation donations or grants. Fundraising efforts have been generously supported by various community groups, medical providers, and individuals. The most successful fundraising efforts are Walks for Women, Quilts of Hope, and other community events. Quilting groups from around West Virginia work in two-year cycles to complete quilts for the Quilts of Hope project. Together, volunteers spend thousands of hours completing quilted masterpieces. Each quilt illustrates a message of hope in the fight against cancer and celebrates West Virginia's proud quilting heritage. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, these fundraising events raised \$82,607 and \$54,086, respectively. Additionally, the Fund receives donations from various organizations and community members. In FY 2019, private donations totaled \$92,207, and BCCSP distributed \$61,562 from combined funds for qualifying diagnostic treatment for women. In FY 2020, the Fund received a total of \$41,069 in private donations, and BCCSP distributed \$44,393 from combined funds for qualifying diagnostic treatment. Funds from private donations are leveraged by the Bureau for Public Health as match for federal funds from CDC which requires \$1 in state match for every \$3 in federal funds.

IMPACTS OF THE FUND

In FY 2019, 53 West Virginia women were served by the Fund and a total of 63 diagnostic and treatment procedures were provided. In FY 2020, 42 West Virginia women were served by the Fund, and 46 procedures were provided. These numbers are slightly lower than FY 2018 where 66 women were served. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have suppressed patient access to breast and cervical cancer diagnostic and treatment services during pandemic conditions of FY 2020 as compared to FY 2018 and FY 2019, with a decrease of 37% and 21% of women served by the Fund, respectively.

Based upon the Fund's current reserves, and after consultation with the BCCSP Medical Advisory Committee, the program may be able to offer additional services to more uninsured women younger than age 25 such as coloscopies, breast biopsies, mammograms, ultrasounds, and surgical consults. Additionally, services may expand to

include conscious sedation, Chest x-ray (CXR) and Electrocardiogram (EKG) for women requiring general anesthesia for breast biopsies or covered cervical procedures, gynecological consultations or post procedure follow-up visits, and 3D ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) for expanded age groups.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the expansion of Medicaid in West Virginia have eased financial pressure on the Fund; however, the Fund continues to serve West Virginia's uninsured women through the provision of diagnostic and treatment services not otherwise covered by federal funds from the CDC. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fund served 42 women and covered 46 diagnostic and treatment services. BCCSP expects the economic effects of the pandemic to result in an increase in demand for services provided by the Fund as women experience loss of jobs and gaps between affordable insurance and Medicaid coverage. With steady revenue and good stewardship by BCCSP, the program hopes to expand services in accordance with current medical best practices.